IT institutes

281. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of technological institutions under Government where Bachelor's level and higher level courses in Information Technology are conducted;

(b) whether Government would set up IT institutes to provide IT education at affordable cost in view of the inability of the poor students to afford it; and

(c) the details of IT institutions set up/proposed to be set up during the Tenth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Fall in STD rates

282. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether licences for long distance operations have been given to certain companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there will be a fall in STD rates due to increase in the number of players in the sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).